



The Seattle City Attorney's *Liaison Links*

Quarterly Connection to the People and
Programs of your *Precinct Liaison*
Offices

North - East - West - South/Southwest

Spring 2003

Please visit the Precinct Liaison web site:
www.cityofseattle.net/law/precinct_liaisons

Also in this issue:

- * New West Precinct Liaison
- * Admiral Smoke Shop guilty verdicts
- * Public safety at Freeway Park
- * Good Neighbor Agreements for Aloha Motel and Deano's
- * National Community Prosecutor conference highlights

SEATTLE'S NEW RESIDENTIAL DISTURBANCE NOISE LAW *Phil Brenneman*

Enforcement of noise violations in Seattle's residential areas should be enhanced by Seattle's new Residential Disturbance Noise Ordinance, passed unanimously by the Seattle City Council, and signed into law by Mayor Greg Nickels on June 26. (The new ordinance will go into effect approximately 90 days from that date.)

A new "residential disturbance" violation is created by the ordinance for noise associated with gatherings of more than one person at a private residential property in a single family or multifamily zone. The ordinance applies to frequent, repetitive or continuous noise at such gatherings which occur between 10 pm (11 pm on Friday and Saturday nights) and 7 am, and is audible to a person of normal hearing at a distance of 75 feet or more from the property.

A violation of the ordinance is a civil infraction and subject to a fine of \$250. A repeat violation within 24 hours of receiving a civil infraction constitutes a criminal violation and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and/or a 6 month jail term.

The ordinance provides that three or more violations at a property unit within a 12 month period constitutes a public nuisance which can result in abatement proceedings by the city attorney.

MEET YOUR NEW PRECINCT LIAISON ATTORNEY *Phil Brenneman*

In May, City Attorney Tom Carr selected Tamera Soukup as the new west precinct liaison attorney. Tamera replaces Shelley Hickey who moved to Texas and into private law practice (see article page 5).

Tamera received a BA in speech communications from Western

Washington University in 1984 and JD from University of Puget Sound Law School in 1988. While attending law school, she worked for the city attorney's office as a legal intern in the land use section and criminal division. After passing the bar, she worked as a criminal prosecutor from 1988-1990, and from 1991-1995 she owned and operated the Front Street Coffee Bar near the Bremerton Ferry Terminal.

Tamera returned to the city attorney's office in 1995 as a night court prosecutor. From 1998 until May of this year she served as the lead mental health court prosecutor working as part of a team developing this new court as an innovative approach to therapeutic jurisprudence.

On June 12, the Washington Women Lawyers organization awarded Tamera its President's Award for her outstanding work as a mental health court prosecutor.

Tamera resides in the west precinct with her family,

Continued next column

Continued next column

Continued on page 2

NEW LIAISON ATTORNEY

Continued from page 1

including her three children, and is "... very excited about working with the many diverse groups in the precinct to make the City a better place to live and to do business."

If you have not yet met Tamera, you may contact her by phone at 386-4084 or by email at Tamera.Soukup@seattle.gov.

FREEWAY PARK

Tamera Soukup

A recent meeting between city representatives and the Freeway Neighborhood Association (FNA) has resulted in a plan to address concerns about increased criminal activity at Freeway Park. Problems observed include drug related activities, alcohol abuse and prostitution. Because of its size and various "hiding places" among trees and turning pathways, the area presents unique law enforcement problems.

In the short term, combined city and private efforts will form a multi-layer security presence in the area. Although the Park straddles both West and East Precincts, West Precinct Captain Mike Sanford indicated that the West Precinct would handle all calls regarding the park, and he would increase patrols in the area. Dave Dillman, Director of Metropolitan Improvement District (MID), determined that the park was within MID

boundaries and approved MID resources to help combat the problems in the area. MID Ambassadors will patrol the park on a regular basis and alert private security and/or the police department upon witnessing any illegal or suspicious activity. Private security will also patrol certain park areas. The City Parks Department will draft and post "Rules of Conduct" signs, and work on partitioning and repairing benches throughout the Park. FNA will continue to work with Parks to address more long-term solutions such as enhancing park programs and changes to the park landscape and design.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS & NUISANCE SITUATIONS WORKSHOPS

Tuere Sala

On March 29 and May 10 the South and Southwest Precincts conducted their first workshops on "Dealing with Neighborhood Problems and Nuisance Situations." The workshops, made possible through the combined efforts of the Seattle Neighborhood Group, Seattle Police Department, King County Dispute Resolution Center and Seattle City Attorney's Precinct Liaison Program, were designed to help community members 1) understand the difference between neighborhood problems and nuisance situations, 2) become better acquainted with effective processes to address problems or situations, 3) utilize existing tools more effectively, and 4) encourage more community involvement in finding solutions.

Approximately 75 community members attended the workshops, and feedback was very favorable with nearly every attendee indicating that they learned something new.

Many participants discovered that increased community involvement could alleviate some of the frustration often associated with neighborhood problems. In addition to focusing on the application of nuisance laws, the workshop featured a presentation by Vivien Sharples from the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC). She provided information on ways to effectively communicate with neighbors, and how the DRC can assist people in opening lines of communication to help avoid hostility and find amicable solutions.

Overall the workshops were very successful. Thanks go to Betsy Harris of the Highland Park Action Community for supplying the coffee, juice and muffins on March 29, and Tari Nelson-Zagar of the Seattle Neighborhood Group for supplying coffee, juice and muffins on May 10. Similar workshops will be scheduled for other communities in the city, so please watch for announcements of dates, times and locations in a future editions of the Liaison Links.

A COMMUNITY GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT FOR DEANO'S

Ed McKenna

Deano's Café and Lounge on East Madison Street has long been the

Continued next column

Continued next column

Continued on page 3

DEANO'S

Continued from page 2

target of complaints from area residents. However, the establishment's new owners recently signed a Good Neighbor Agreement which everyone is hopeful will yield tangible benefits for the community.

The city had previously objected to the renewal of a liquor license for Deano's based on several administrative license violations by the licensee and numerous criminal law violations that had taken place in and around the establishment. In response, the liquor board ordered the previous owner to either close or sell the business. The city then objected to the issuance of a liquor license to a prospective purchaser citing concerns of ties to the previous owner and lack of ability to operate the business. The prospective operator withdrew his liquor license application.

Enter Darnell Parker and Helen Coleman. Many in the community know Helen Coleman, aka Ms. Helen, from Ms. Helen's Soul Food Restaurant which was condemned after the Nisqually earthquake. Likewise, Darnell Parker is well known in the entertainment field for his showmanship. Together they agreed to lease the business and assume the liquor license. Convincing the community that changes would occur was a different matter altogether. Parker and Coleman met several times with members of the Miller Park Community to

discuss concerns. They also met with the Seattle Police Department and the precinct liaison attorney to discuss issues of public safety. After gathering input from all involved, a draft version of a Community Good Neighbor Agreement was circulated through the community, and additional input was solicited. A final version was then prepared, presented and signed by Parker and Coleman, Andrew Taylor, Neighborhood Association Chair on behalf of the Miller Park community, and Fred Hill, Captain of the East precinct on behalf of SPD. The document describes the business' prior problems, explains the background of the agreement, and outlines actionable steps for Parker and Coleman to take to address community concerns and public safety. A complete text of the agreement may be found on the Miller Park web site, <http://home.jps.net/~tayles>, and click "Public Safety."

Since the agreement was signed all parties have contributed to its successful implementation: additional police emphasis in conjunction with the grand re-opening, community members patronizing the establishment (primarily for the food), and Parker and Coleman following the problem-solving steps outlined in the agreement. Although initial reports indicate some problems remain, police and community members are reporting less visible criminal activity. Hopefully, this trend will continue.

CONVICTIONS IN ADMIRAL SMOKE SHOP DRUG PARAPHERNALIA CASE

Tuere Sala

On May 23, 2003, a Seattle Municipal Court jury found the the owner of the Admiral Smoke Shop guilty of three counts of selling illegal drug paraphernalia. The charges resulted from a search warrant executed on the Admiral Smoke Shop in May 2002 by the Seattle Police Department's Community Police Team (CPT) which seized approximately 273 assorted metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic or ceramic pipes, water pipes and/or bongs. Also seized were hundreds of miniature baggies, screens of varying sizes and two cocaine vials. The search warrant was part of a larger drug paraphernalia project started by CPT officers in September 2001 after receiving complaints from community members, merchants and other patrol officers.

As part of the project, CPT officers provide business owners and their employees with information concerning drug paraphernalia as defined by state law, including the penalties associated with the selling of such illegal items. Owners are are provided an opportunity - approximately two weeks - to remove the illegal items from their stores, and are informed that SPD will return to perform compliance checks at a future date. If the business continues

Continued next column

Continued on page 4

ADMIRAL SMOKE SHOP

Continued from page 3

to sell drug paraphernalia after the notice, the business owner and/or employees may be charged with the applicable misdemeanor.

Sentencing in the case involving the owner of the Admiral Smoke Shop is set for Friday, July 18 at 9 AM in the Municipal Court building, room 1101.

FORMER ALOHA MOTEL AGREES TO BE A “GOOD NEIGHBOR”

Ed McKenna

If you have traveled Aurora Avenue North near 41st lately, you probably have noticed the transformation of the old Aloha Motel. A former haven for criminal activity now serves as a 16-unit apartment building, with university students targeted as tenants.

The FAWN (Fremont, Aurora, Wallingford Neighbors) Citizen Patrol actively worked with the Community Police Team in monitoring illegal activities in and around the establishment, including prostitution and narcotics dealing. According to area residents, at one point the former hotel served as a “garage sale of stolen property.” And a police sting operation resulted in ‘permitting prostitution’ charges filed against a manager of the former hotel. Although a Good Neighbor Agreement with the previous owner had some effect,

area neighbors complained that criminal activity continued until the property closed down a few years ago.

The building was recently purchased by Cassandra Kerk who converted the motel building into apartments. Area residents remained worried that the property would return to its previous character, and upon request Kerk met with the precinct liaison attorney and a community member to discuss areas of concern. Kerk eagerly reassured the community that their fears were groundless, and backed her assurance by signing a Community Good Neighbor Agreement.

The Community Good Neighbor Agreement, drafted with input from FAWN, addressed the background of the agreement and set forth guidelines for Kerk to follow to alleviate the concerns of the neighborhood. According to FAWN member Heather McAuliffe, the Community Good Neighbor Agreement provides “an excellent reference that includes a set of best business practices for the new property owner.” As she signed the agreement, Kerk stated, “I want the community to know that there won’t be any problems. I want [people] to bring any concerns directly to me.” And the community’s reaction? “We’re all very pleased,” said McAuliffe.

CAR PROWL EMPHASIS

Tamera Soukup

The West Precinct has formed a task force to address the significant increase in vehicle prowling crimes. In the last year, the number of vehicle prowling crimes has risen by more than 33%. The purpose of the task force is to combine Seattle Police Department resources and private resources to combat these crimes. SPD prepared a “hot map” which defines the areas hit most frequently, and the West Precinct will provide emphasis patrols in those areas. Private security companies and parking lot operators will share information among themselves, and encourage increased reporting of car prowls and suspicious activities to police.

Prevention through education is also necessary to reduce the number of car prowls. Private security staff will inform garage tenants about steps they can take to reduce the chance they will be victimized. These steps include locking vehicles, placing valuable items in trunks prior to parking, and recording serial numbers of valuable items.

ABANDONED AUTO LEGISLATION UPDATE

Tuere Sala

As many readers may know, several community members and police officers invested a large amount of time and energy in creating new state legislation to address abandoned automobiles, a significant problem in Seattle

Continued next column

Continued on page 5

CAR PROWL EMPHASIS

Continued from page 4

and other cities. The new law creates additional accountability and penalties for individuals who egregiously violate city parking ordinances. Currently a group is forming to address implementation of the law, including changes to parking violation notices, creation of a database to track violators, and police training on the new criminal violations. The process has been long and some work still remains. However, it is encouraging to hear from an individual with 30 years experience with a Seattle towing company, that "... the steps taken in the last couple of years have done more to address the [abandoned auto] problem in Seattle than anything ... in the last 30 years."

SHELLEY HICKEY MOVES TO TEXAS

Phil Brenneman

After 10 years with the Seattle City Attorney's Office, the last two as the west precinct liaison attorney, Shelley Hickey picked up her spurs and moved to Texas where she has joined a friend in private law practice. Shelley said her desire to be close to her family in Oklahoma and Texas was the primary reason she was moving.

Through her tenure, Shelley handled some memorable drug forfeiture and nuisance cases,

and also served for three years representing the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. Shelley particularly loved her work as the west precinct liaison attorney for the last two years. We will miss Shelley and wish her very best in all of her new endeavors.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE BRINGS COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Bob Hood

More than 250 prosecutors, city attorneys, and law enforcement professionals came together at the Second National Community Prosecution Conference in Washington D.C. in April to share the latest learning from community prosecutors across the nation. The conference, sponsored by the American Prosecutor's Research Institute, was attended by representatives from thirty-four states, the District of Columbia, and Sweden and Japan.

Following an opening address by Dr. George Kelling, co-author of *Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities*, twenty-two group sessions addressed issues ranging from creating effective problem solving partnerships to dealing with problem bars and liquor stores to evaluating a program's impact. Bob Hood, chief prosecutor from the Seattle City Attorney's office, participated in two panels: one concerning

open-air drug markets and street prostitution, and the other on using city attorneys and city codes to solve neighborhood problems. Each session provided an opportunity to highlight innovative strategies applied in Seattle to combat these pervasive problems. Hood also attended several other sessions to learn how other jurisdictions are combating crime in their communities.

The conference presented a golden opportunity to network with others engaged in similar problem-solving efforts in their communities. Also highlighted was the near-universal need to develop strategies to ensure that these important programs secure sufficient funding in the current atmosphere of tight budgets.

For more news from APRI's National Center for Community Prosecution, visit their website at www.ndaa.org/apri/programs/community_pros/cp_home.html

APRI TEAM ENJOYS LIGHTNING VISIT TO SEATTLE

Bob Hood

Mike Kuykendall, Director of the National Community Prosecution Center at the American Prosecutor's Research Institute, and **Jim Heyden**, of the Multnomah County (Portland) District Attorney's Office Neighborhood DA Unit, made a lightning site visit to Seattle on May 28 and 29.

Continued next column

Continued next column

Continued on page 6

APRI TEAM

Continued from page 5

Their visit, spawned from a conversation held at the Second National Community Prosecution Conference, provided Kuykendall and Heyden a first-hand opportunity to observe Seattle's Precinct Liaison Program. During a lengthy Thursday afternoon discussion the history of the liaison program within the city attorney's office was reviewed, and on Friday morning, Kuykendall and Heyden met with precinct liaisons **Ed McKenna, Tamera Soukup,** and **Tuere Sala.** Each liaison described some of the problem-solving efforts they are engaged in in each of Seattle's five precincts. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss approaches and problems from other parts of the country.

4th COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER SURVEY IMMINENT

Bob Hood

As part of ongoing efforts to assess and improve the effectiveness of the Precinct Liaison Program, the latest installment of the Community Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey will soon be released. The twice-a-year survey, mailed to precinct advisory board participants, serves as an important gauge of how the program is performing in each of Seattle's precincts. As part of this process, an experimental electronic version

of the survey may be utilized in the north precinct.

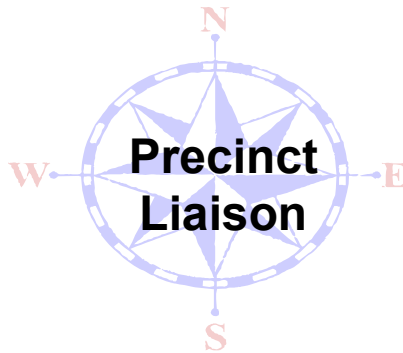
If you receive a survey, please take a few minutes to complete it and let the liaison program know how they're doing. Your feedback will help meet a condition of the federal community prosecution grant, and provide information needed to continue improving the operations and effectiveness of the program.

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The Seattle City Attorney's
Liaison Links

North Liaison Attorney
Ed McKenna (T & Th)
206-684-7765

West Liaison Attorney
Tamera Soukup
206-386-4084



East Liaison Attorney
Ed McKenna (M, W & F)
206-684-4375

South/Southwest Liaison Attorney
Tuere Sala
206-233-2020

Thomas Carr, 206-684-8288
Seattle City Attorney

Robert Hood, 206-684-7771
Criminal Division Chief

Phil Brenneman, 206-684-8224
Precinct Liaison Program Director

Cami Bayer, Administrative Specialist, 206-684-8864